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PROCESS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Working paper submitted by Argentina

1. Dealing with a question such as the "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons", as with all other questions which have so direct a bearing on global security, requires all States to make efforts to help strengthen international peace and security.
2. The improved international climate created the conditions for the negotiation of bilateral agreements on nuclear disarmament between the United States and the Soviet Union, a process which culminated successfully in the Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missiles. The agreement on conventional forces in Europe is another tangible sign of an international situation which must be encouraged and nurtured.
3. The facts also show how much remains to be done in this field and in the quest for a harmonious world order. The recent military conflict and the potential for the use of weapons of mass destruction in that conflict have served to underscore the fact that theories about the use of such weapons are by no means mere abstractions, as long as the relevant multilateral instruments do not exist.
4. It is incumbent on all States to seek, by all appropriate means at their disposal, ways of reducing the likelihood of scenarios of conventional confrontation escalating to the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

5. In this context, it seems that thought needs to be given to the possibility of establishing multilateral nuclear warning and crisis control centres.

6. The establishment of centres of this kind would offer an effective means of prevention, which would help to establish the conditions of predictability and stability that are becoming increasingly necessary in the changing global strategic context in which we are living in this final decade of the twentieth century.

7. It would, moreover, make it possible to involve the various States in a practical and tangible way in the undertaking of exchanging information and maintaining adequate channels of communication for responding to unexpected situations, thereby avoiding in every case the spread of conflicts and situations which could trigger the use of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction.
